

2003 MICHIGAN BEAR HUNTING GUIDE

Application Period April 15–May 15, 2003

Apply online at www.michigan.gov/dnr



Important Changes for 2003:

- A limited quantity of grain may be used in some areas prior to October 1. See pages 6–7 for details concerning bear baiting.
- Hunters may check the age of their bear online at www.michigan.gov/dnr. Bear-age postcards no longer will be mailed.



ETHICS

**“A peculiar virtue
in wildlife ethics
is that the hunter
ordinarily has no
gallery to approve
or disapprove of
his conduct.
Whatever his acts,
they are dictated
by his own
conscience,
rather than by a
mob of onlookers.**

**It is difficult to
exaggerate the
importance of
this fact.”**

—Aldo Leopold

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Important Reminders

- Bear hunters should review pages 6–7 for bear baiting regulations.
- Regulations allow bear hunters to begin establishing bait stations August 10, 2003, in the Upper Peninsula, and August 19 in the Lower Peninsula.
- It is illegal to tend or establish a bait station for the purpose of attracting bear after September 25, 2003, in the Baldwin and Gladwin units, after October 9 in the Red Oak Unit and after October 26 in the Upper Peninsula.

REPORT ALL POACHING

Call: 800-292-7800

TTY—Hearing impaired, 711 (Michigan Relay Center)

Bear Hunting in Michigan

The goal of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Black Bear Management Program is to maintain a healthy black bear population that provides viewing and hunting opportunities for residents, yet does not create excessive bear problems for people living near bear habitat.

To maintain this balance, an area and quota system for bear hunting that divides the state into 10 Bear Management Units was established in 1990. A desired bear population is determined for each unit based on the number of bear the surrounding habitat will support without causing significant problems for local residents. Each hunting season, a harvest quota is set that reflects the desired population goal for each BMU.

Drawing Process

Hunters are awarded a license through a preference point system that began in 2000. For the 2002 bear hunting season, 43,563 applicants applied for 10,844 hunting licenses.

The number of hunters applying for bear licenses continues to increase each year. The table on page 15 shows the number of last year's successful applicants by hunt period and management unit. These application success rates are the best indication of what may be expected for the 2003 season, but remember that applicant success varies for each hunt period.

Application Information

- You may apply
 - at any authorized license dealer
 - at DNR Operations Service Centers
 - online at www.michigan.gov/dnr
- It costs \$4 to apply, except for comprehensive lifetime license holders.
- To apply, you will need one of the following forms of identification:
 - Valid Michigan Driver License
 - State of Michigan ID Card (issued by the Secretary of State)
 - DNR Sportcard (issued through license dealers)
- Keep your mailing address up to date with the Secretary of State.
- You must be 12 years old during the season for which you are applying.
- Youngsters 12 and 13 are restricted to archery-only hunting.
- Applicants who apply more than once, falsify information or apply with more than three party members will be ineligible for the drawing.
- Those who do not provide complete application information may not be eligible. In some instances, one or more party members may be ineligible for the drawing.
- If successful, you must go to a license dealer to purchase your bear hunting license. You do not need to have your notification card with you when you purchase your license.
 - All licenses must be signed to be valid.
 - Your signature on the license certifies that you meet applicable residency and hunter safety requirements to purchase a Michigan hunting license.
 - Licenses may not be altered or transferred.

New Bear License Opportunity for Youth and Hunters with an Advanced Illness

Adult applicants, 17 or older, who are successful in the license lottery, may transfer their *drawing success* to any youth, ages 12–16, or to any person of legal hunting age with an advanced illness. Advanced illness is a specific medical condition as defined by the Public Health Code, and eligibility under this provision requires an advanced illness diagnosis by a physician.

- Youth and persons with an advanced illness must have applied during the current application period to receive someone's drawing success.
- Youth and applicants with an advanced illness who were successful in the lottery are not eligible for transfers.
- Those who receive a person's drawing success will retain their preference points.
- Point totals will return to zero for persons who transfer their drawing success.
- It is unlawful for an adult to transfer their drawing success for a fee, or transfer their drawing success and then guide that person for a fee.

Eligible persons who wish to participate in this program should call 517-373-3904. Individuals who know the name of their recipient will receive instructions on how to complete the transfer. The names of individuals who wish to receive someone's drawing success, or that wish to donate their drawing success, will be forwarded to the Safari Club International-Michigan Involvement Committee. Safari Club will maintain a waiting list and, once a transfer has been completed, will help recipients find adult mentors who may be able to offer bear hunting instruction and assistance.

Preference Point System

Hunters receive a preference point each year that they are unsuccessful in obtaining a harvest tag.

Applicants may apply for a harvest tag or elect to bank a preference point by applying and forgoing the license selection process; only one point will be awarded in a given year.

It is illegal to apply for a license while under a hunting license revocation.

Each year, licenses for a particular hunting period and unit will be issued to applicants with the most points. If there are not enough licenses available for all persons with the same number of points, a random drawing will be held to distribute the remaining licenses.

Up to four hunters may apply as a party; the party's preference standing will equal that of the party member with the fewest number of points; all party members will receive a tag if the party is selected.

A person's preference standing will return to zero points upon selection, including successful applicants who do not purchase their license.

Any person making a duplicate or faulty application is eliminated from the selection process, but is awarded one point, unless under a hunting license revocation.

A person must apply at least once every three years to maintain their preference points; persons who fail to apply or are ineligible to apply for a license for three consecutive years will lose their points.

No more than 2% of the available harvest tags will be issued to nonresidents.

Bear Hunting License Costs

| Item No. | Name | Cost |
|----------|--|----------|
| 181 | Resident Bear License | \$14.00 |
| 182 | Senior Bear License (65) | \$5.60 |
| 183 | Nonresident Bear License | \$150.00 |
| 184 | Lifetime Comprehensive License Holders | Free |

Participation Bear License

Hunters who did not apply for a license or receive a harvest tag may purchase a license to participate in a bear hunt behind dogs, beginning June 7, 2003. This license, which can be purchased online or from a license dealer, entitles a person to only participate in the hunt. It does not allow the holder to kill a bear. It is not necessary to purchase a participation license to take part in a bear hunt involving bait only.

| Item No. | Name | Cost |
|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 185 | Resident Participant | \$14.00 |
| 186 | Senior Participant (65) | \$5.60 |
| 187 | Nonresident Participant | \$150.00 |
| 188 | Lifetime Comprehensive Participant | Free |

Worksheet

The license agent will ask for the following information when applying:

1. Your birth date? ___ / ___ / ____
2. Customer ID number? Michigan Driver License, state of Michigan ID Card, or DNR Sportcard
3. Application item type? 180 Bear Application \$4
280 Lifetime Bear Application Free
4. Joining existing party? No, if applying by yourself or you are the first person in a party to apply; (Go to item 5).
Yes, if a member of your party already has applied. (Go to item 6)
5. Hunt number? (____) see table on page 9
If you do not intend to go bear hunting in this season, you may elect not to be included in the license drawing by choosing Hunt No. 99 when you apply. This option ensures you will not receive a license this year, but will allow you to obtain a preference point for future use.
6. Party ID Number (____) (same number as printed on your party member's receipt; leave blank, if applying by yourself)

You will receive a receipt of your application. Read this receipt carefully to ensure the information was entered properly. Retain your receipt as proof of your application.

General Rules

1. A person shall not kill or attempt to kill a bear unless the person has an unused bear harvest license issued in their name for the bear management unit in which they are hunting.
2. You may not hunt bear with a firearm during the archery-only bear season in the Red Oak Management Unit.
3. Upon killing a bear, the holder of a bear license shall immediately attach the kill tag provided with the bear hunting license to the lower jaw of the bear. The kill tag shall remain attached to the bear until the bear is sealed and registered at a DNR office or designated registration station. The seal shall remain attached to the bear until:
 - The carcass is processed or butchered for consumption by an individual for their use.
 - The carcass is accepted for processing and recorded by a commercial processor. If the head or hide is returned to the person submitting the animal to the commercial processor, the seal shall accompany the head or hide.
 - The carcass is accepted for processing and recorded by a licensed taxidermist.
4. It is illegal to disturb a bear den or disturb, harm or molest a bear in its den.
5. It is illegal for any nonresident to assist and/or guide another person in any manner in the taking of bear for a fee, other consideration, or service of value, either directly or indirectly.
6. It is illegal for any person who transfers their drawing success to another person to assist and/or guide that person in any manner in the taking of bear for a fee, other consideration, or service of value, either directly or indirectly.
7. BAG LIMIT: Only one bear per calendar year.
8. It is illegal to take a cub bear or a female bear accompanied by a cub bear.
9. Firearm bear hunters are required to wear a hat, cap, vest, jacket or rain gear of highly visible color, commonly referred to as "Hunter Orange," while hunting on any lands. The Hunter Orange garment must be the outermost garment and must be visible from all sides. Camouflage orange garments must be 50 percent or more Hunter Orange. Archery bear hunters are exempt from the Hunter Orange requirement.
10. It is legal to hunt bear from a raised platform or tree stand when using a firearm, bow or crossbow (with a crossbow permit).
11. When hunting or fishing, you must carry your license and the identification used to purchase that license.

Baiting Rules

From the start of the legal bear baiting period through the end of bear hunting season, bear hunters may use the following products without quantity restrictions:

- meat and meat products including dog food,
- fish and fish products including cat food,
- bakery/confectionery products including jams, jellies, sweeteners, candies and other cooked or commercially processed materials, including pie fillings and yogurts, used in bakery products.

From the start of the legal bear baiting period through the end of bear hunting season, bear hunters may use up to two gallons of grains per bait station provided the bait is made inaccessible to deer and elk. It is illegal to use grains in counties closed to deer and elk feeding and deer baiting.

All other materials, including fruits, vegetables, salt and minerals, may be used in limited quantities, starting October 1, except in those counties closed to deer and elk feeding and deer baiting. Bear hunters using grains, fruits, vegetables, salt and minerals

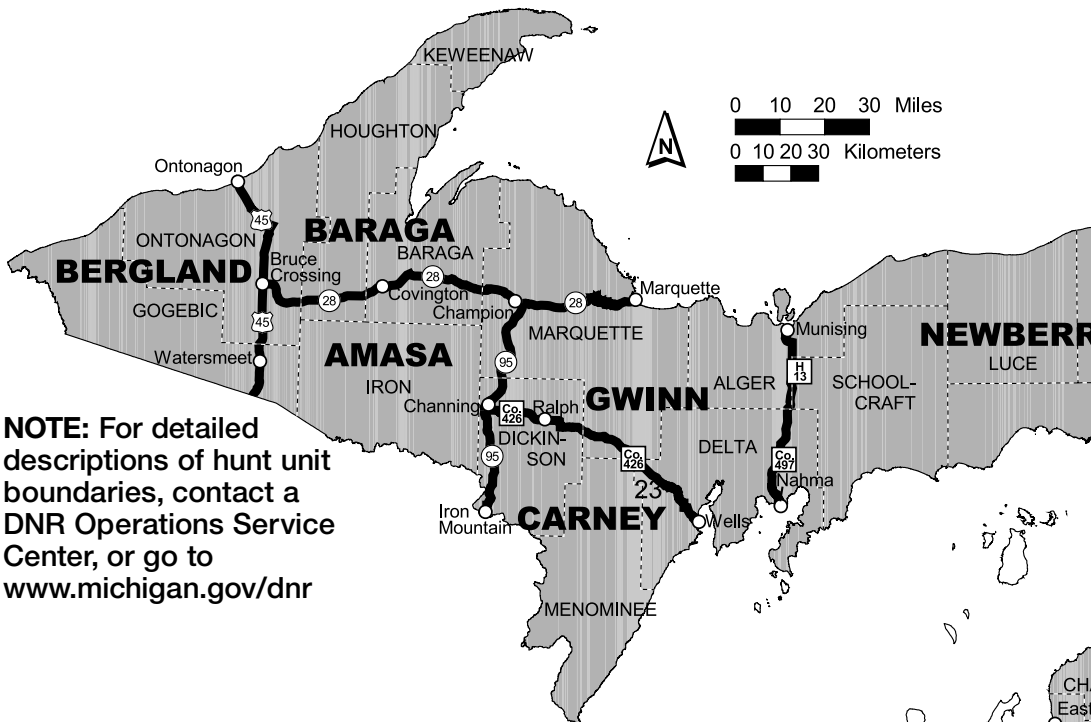
beginning October 1, must comply with all other deer and elk feeding and deer baiting regulations for the area and time in which they are baiting bear.

Hunters should consult the 2003 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide, which is available in early August, for deer and elk feeding and deer baiting regulations, including closed counties.

1. It is illegal to establish a bait station that attracts bear prior to August 10 in Bergland, Baraga, Amasa, Drummond, Carney, Gwinn and Newberry management units or prior to August 19 in the Baldwin, Gladwin and Red Oak management units. It also is illegal to tend or establish a bait station for the purpose of attracting bear after September 25 in the Baldwin and Gladwin units, after October 9 in the Red Oak Unit and after October 26 in the Upper Peninsula.
2. It is illegal to hunt over an illegal bait. An illegal bait is one that attracts bear prior to August 10 in Bergland, Baraga, Amasa, Carney, Gwinn, Newberry and Drummond management units, or prior to August 19 in the Baldwin, Gladwin and Red Oak management units, or is not placed on the ground, or contains plastic, any wood products, paper, glass or metal, or has within 100 yards of the bait site any containers used to transport bait to the baiting site.
3. It is illegal to use metal containers, plastic, wood, glass, fabric, cloth or paper at a bait station. It also is illegal to use a tire at a bait station.
4. It is illegal to place bait other than on the ground at bait stations.
5. For the purpose of these rules, a bait station is a site where food or lure is placed that attracts bear.
6. As required by state law, any containers used to transport bait to the baiting site must be removed and disposed of properly.
7. It is illegal for any person or their authorized representatives to establish or tend more than three bait stations per hunter.

Dog Rules

1. For the purpose of hunting bear, no more than six dogs shall be run as a pack. Relaying of packs is prohibited. It is not illegal to relay dogs if six or fewer dogs are used. All dogs must be immunized and licensed and must have a license or other form of identification affixed to their collars.
2. Nonresidents must have in their possession a **special permit** to use dogs while hunting bear. No more than 10 dogs may be registered on one permit. The free permits are available by calling 517-373-1263.
3. It is illegal to train dogs on bear or hunt bear with dogs September 10-14 in the Upper Peninsula, except on Drummond Island, or chase bear with dogs in the Red Oak Unit during the October 3–9 archery-only season.
4. Each person participating in any way in pursuing bear with dogs during an established open season for hunting bear with dogs shall have in their possession a valid Michigan bear hunting license or participation license.
5. For purposes of training, no more than eight dogs may be used to chase bear during a single day.
6. Dogs may not be trained on a captive, tame or otherwise tethered bear.
7. Nonresidents shall not chase bear with dogs outside the open season.
8. Outside the open bear hunting season, nonresidents may train dogs on bear only on special dog training areas or when participating in an authorized field trial.
9. Dogs shall not begin chasing bears from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.
10. It is illegal to train dogs on bear or other wild animals from April 16–July 14.



NOTE: For detailed descriptions of hunt unit boundaries, contact a DNR Operations Service Center, or go to www.michigan.gov/dnr

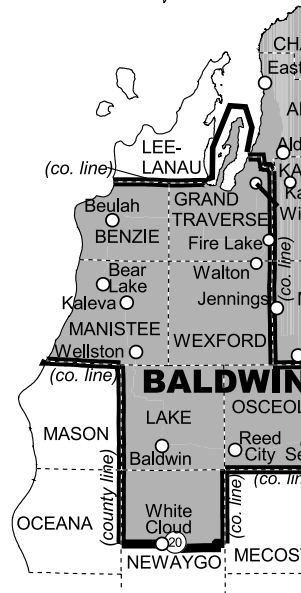
How to Apply

1. Look at the map above. Choose a bear management unit in which to hunt.
2. Look at the table at right. Choose one hunt number for the bear management unit and dates you wish to hunt.
3. Complete the worksheet on page 5.
4. Apply at a license agent or online at www.michigan.gov/dnr
5. Check your receipt for accuracy. Retain receipt as proof of application.

Applying With a Party

You may apply individually or with up to 3 partners.

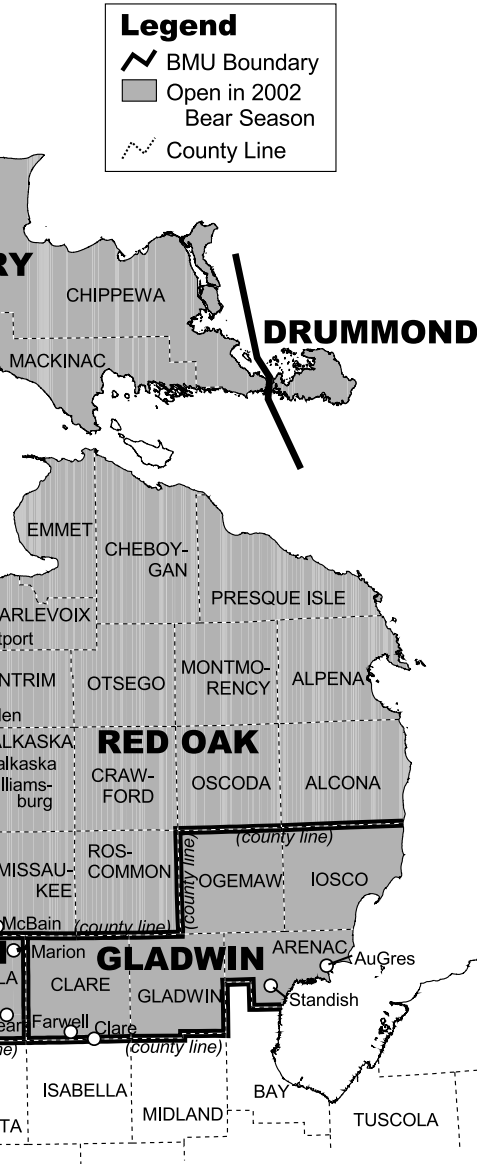
- Partners must apply for the same hunt.
- The first applicant of the partnership will receive a Party ID number.
- Remaining partners will need this Party ID number when applying.
- The party's preference point total will equal that of the party member with the fewest number of points.
- All party members will receive a tag if the party is selected.



Drawing results will be posted June 6 at 10 a.m. at www.michigan.gov/dnr

All applicants, except those who applied online, will be mailed a postcard by June 13.

2003 Bear License Quotas



| HUNT NUMBER | MANAGEMENT UNIT | SEASON DATES | PRELIMINARY LICENSE QUOTA* |
|----------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 01 | Bergland | Sept. 10** – Oct. 21 | 350 |
| 02 | | Sept. 15 – Oct. 26 | 480 |
| 03 | | Sept. 25 – Oct. 26 | 830 |
| 04 | Baraga | Sept. 10** – Oct. 21 | 530 |
| 05 | | Sept. 15 – Oct. 26 | 630 |
| 06 | | Sept. 25 – Oct. 26 | 1,020 |
| 07 | Amasa | Sept. 10** – Oct. 21 | 150 |
| 08 | | Sept. 15 – Oct. 26 | 170 |
| 09 | | Sept. 25 – Oct. 26 | 270 |
| 10 | Carney | Sept. 10** – Oct. 21 | 260 |
| 11 | | Sept. 15 – Oct. 26 | 310 |
| 12 | | Sept. 25 – Oct. 26 | 490 |
| 13 | Gwinn | Sept. 10** – Oct. 21 | 270 |
| 14 | | Sept. 15 – Oct. 26 | 290 |
| 15 | | Sept. 25 – Oct. 26 | 620 |
| 16 | Newberry | Sept. 10** – Oct. 21 | 460 |
| 17 | | Sept. 15 – Oct. 26 | 680 |
| 18 | | Sept. 25 – Oct. 26 | 1,110 |
| 19 | Drummond | Sept. 10 – Sept. 16 | 20 |
| 20 | Red Oak*** | Sept. 19 – Sept. 25 Oct. 3** – Oct. 9 (<i>archery only</i>) | 1,700 |
| 21 | Baldwin | Sept. 19 – Sept. 25 | 60 |
| 22 | Gladwin | Sept. 19 – Sept. 25 | 200 |
| 99 | I do not want to be included in the license drawing this year, but I want a preference point for future use. | | |

*License quotas may be adjusted prior to the selection process.

It is illegal to train dogs on bear or hunt bear with dogs Sept. 10–14 in the Upper Peninsula, except on Drummond Island. It is also illegal to **chase bear with dogs during the Oct. 3–9 archery-only season in the Red Oak Bear Management Unit.

***Permits issued for the Red Oak Bear Management Unit are valid for both hunt periods.

Hunter Harassment — Hunters in Michigan have the right to enjoy their sport free from deliberate interference. Individuals whose hunting is being obstructed should promptly report the violation to a local conservation officer, the nearest DNR office or by calling 800-292-7800.

Assistance

If you encounter problems with your bear application, you can obtain assistance by calling 517-373-3904. All inquiries regarding your application must be made prior to May 15. Following the drawing, you can call this number if you need assistance.

Bear Registration Stations by County

Any person killing a bear under the authority of a hunting license shall present the entire bear or head at a DNR office or other designated check station within 72 hours of the kill. The license must be properly punched and attached to the lower jaw of the bear immediately after the kill. At the registration station, an official seal shall be attached to the bear by the registrar and information shall be obtained from the hunter. It is no longer necessary for hunters to surrender a kill tag when sealing a bear. **Bear hunters should call ahead for DNR office hours or an appointment.**

ALCONA

Deep Woods Taxidermy
3572 Deer Hunt Trail
Hubbard Lake
989-736-6668

Lincoln Field Office
408 Main Street
Lincoln
989-736-8336

ALGER

Curly's Market
E9825 H-58
Munising
906-387-3056

Bay Shore Market
Lake St.
Grand Marais
906-494-2581

Lammis Store
1 mi. south of Chatham
Gwinn
906-439-5422

Bear Trap Inn
H-58 and H-15
Shingleton
906-452-6364

Cusino DNR Office
Shingleton
906-452-6236

ALLEGAN

Plainwell Operations
Service Center
621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell
269-685-6851

ALPENA

Limited Edition
Taxidermy
3361 US-23 South
Alpena
989-356-3600

BARAGA

Baraga Operations
Service Center
427 US-41 North
Baraga
906-353-6651

BAY

Bay City Operations
Center
503 N. Euclid Ave.
Bay City
989-684-9141

CHEBOYGAN

Parkey's Taxidermy
4512 Wilson Road
Indian River
231-238-8477

Cheboygan Field Office
120 A Street
Cheboygan
231-627-9011

CHIPPEWA

Strongs Motel & Tavern
M-28
Strongs
906-274-5548

Northland Taxidermy
15189 M-129
Sault Ste Marie
906-647-6674

Sault Ste Marie DNR
Office
2001 Ashmun
I-75 Business Spur
Sault Ste Marie
906-635-5281

Johnson's Sport Shop
268 Channel Rd. 1/4
mile west of 4 Corners
Drummond Island
906-493-6300

CLINTON

Rose Lake DNR Office
8562 E. Stoll Rd.
East Lansing
517-373-9358

DELTA

White's Grocery
US-2 and US-41
Escanaba
906-786-5850

Rapid River Mini Mart
US-2 and US-41
Rapid River
906-474-6990

Fayette State Park
13700 13.25 Lane
Garden
906-644-2603

Escanaba DNR Office
6833 US-2, 41 and M-35
Gladstone
906-786-2351

DICKINSON

Whispering Pines
Outpost
M4200 M-95
Iron Mountain
906-774-1277

GOGEBIC

Cisco Lake Resort
N3994 East Cisco Lake
Road
11 miles west of
Watersmeet
906-358-4305

Holiday Station Store
805 E. Cloverland Dr.
Ironwood
906-932-1128

Root Cellar Resort
East Shore Rd. on Lake
Gogebic
Marenisco
906-842-3535

GRAND TRAVERSE

Traverse City Field
Office
970 Emerson Rd.
Traverse City
231-922-5280

HOUGHTON

Ken's Custom Taxidermy
59908 Cherry St.
Allouez
906-337-4224

Pelkie Meat Processing
M-38 and South Laird
Rd.
Alston
906-338-2484

McLain State Park
M-203, 9 miles NW of
Hancock
Hancock
906-482-0278

Twin Lakes State Park
M-26 at Twin Lakes,
8 mi. south of Toivola
Toivola
906-288-3321

Superior Bait and Tackle
US-41
Chassell
906-523-4944

IONIA

Flat River DNR Office
6640 Long Lake Rd.
Belding
616-794-2658

IRON

DJ's Sport Shop &
Marine
31 Superior Ave.
Crystall Falls
906-875-3113

Lucky's Sport Shop
209 19th Street
Stambaugh
906-265-5339

Crystal Falls DNR Office
1420 West US-2
Crystal Falls
906-875-6622

JACKSON

Waterloo DNR Office
13578 Seymour Rd.
Grass Lake
517-522-4097

KALKASKA

Kalkaska DNR Office
2089 N. Birch
Kalkaska
231-258-2711

KEWEENAW

Fort Wilkins State Park
US-41 East
Copper Harbor
906-289-4215

LAKE

Baldwin DNR Office
2468 West 24th St
Baldwin
231-745-4651

LUCE

Pine Stump Junction
Co. Rd 407 &
Deer Park Road
Newberry
906-658-3364

Newberry Operations
Service Center
5100 South M-123
Behind Comfort Inn
Newberry
906-293-5131

MACKINAC

Great Outdoors Sports
M-129 & M-134,
Cedarville
906-484-2011

Naubinway DNR Office
US-2
Naubinway
906-477-6048

US Forest Service
1789 W US-2
St. Ignace
906-643-7900

MACOMB

Mt. Clemens Fisheries
Station
33135 South River Rd
Harrison Twp.
810-465-4771

MARQUETTE

Cram's General Store
100 Bensinger
Big Bay
906-345-0075

Van Riper State Park
US-41
Champion
906-339-4461

LaPalme's Country
Corner
County Hwy 557 & 426
Arnold
906-238-4231

Marquette Operations
Service Center
1990 US-41 South
Marquette
906-228-6561

MENOMINEE

Ken Kay Travel Park &
Store
Cunard
906-498-7760

B&J Taxidermy
N9590 P1 Lane
Daggett
906-753-4090

Cedar River Taxidermy
N14277 Co. Rd 551
Wilson
906-639-2031

Perry's Marathon
US-2 and US-41
Powers
906-497-5902

JJ's Service
US-41
Wallace
906-788-4255

MONROE

Rockwood Field Office
Pte. Mouillee SGA
Rockwood
734-379-9692

MONTMORENCY

Atlanta Field Office
13501 M-33
Atlanta
989-785-4251 ext. 5233

OAKLAND

Holly Recreational Area
8100 Grange Hall Rd
Holly
248-634-0240

OGEMAW

West Branch Field
Office
2389 South M-76
West Branch
989-345-0472

ONTONAGON

Settler's Cooperative
M-28 at US-45
Bruce Crossing
906-827-3515, Ext. 15

Porcupine Mtns. State
Park
M-107, 16 mi. west of
Ontonagon
Ontonagon
906-85-5275

Scott's Superior Inn and
Cabins
1.5 mi. west of
Ontonagon, north of M-
64
Ontonagon
906-884-4866

Al Trainer
145 Hokkanen Rd.
Ontonagon
906-884-2973

OSCODA

Mio Field Office
191 S. Mt. Tom Rd
Mio
989-826-3211 ext. 7035

OTSEGO

Gaylord Operations
Service Center
1732 West M-32
Gaylord
989-732-3541

PRESQUE ISLE

Adrian's Sport Shop
US-23
Rogers City
989-734-2303

ROSCOMMON

Houghton Lake DNR
Office
180 S. Harrison Rd
Houghton Lake
989-422-5192
or 989-422-6572

Roscommon Operations
Service Center
8717 N. Roscommon Rd
Roscommon
989-275-5151

SCHOOLCRAFT

Forest Glen Store
Forest Highway 13
(near Alger-Schoolcraft
Co. line)
Wetmore
906-573-2655

Top O' Lake Sporting
Goods
206 S. Cedar/Downtown
Manistique
Manistique
906-341-5241

Seney IGA
M-28
Seney
906-499-3323

Garden Sports
US-2 & HCR, Box 9
Cooks
906-644-2908

ST. CLAIR

Port Huron SGA Field
Office
6181 Lapeer Rd
Kimball
810-987-5398

WAYNE

Livonia Operations
Service Center
38980 Seven Mile Rd
Livonia
734-953-0241

WEXFORD

Cadillac Operations
Service Center
8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac
231-775-9727

Schafer's Bait and
Sporting Goods
2722 Sunnyside Dr.
Junct. M-55 & M-115
Cadillac
231-775-7085

Validating Kills

Immediately after killing a bear, a person shall validate their license by cutting out the appropriate information as instructed on the license. Insert a wire or cord through the hole at the top of the license and tie the license to the lower jaw of the bear in a secure and permanent manner.

Carcass Care

Bear hunting season usually occurs in warm and wet weather conditions. The carcass of a harvested bear can be up to five times larger than a deer, and the terrain over which the bear must be moved can be especially difficult. For meat of good quality, follow these important steps:

1. Cool meat quickly (minimum 32-40° F) and age properly.
2. Prevent dampness (any waterproof covering must allow full air circulation).
3. Keep meat clean, and keep flies off.

How Bear Hunters Help



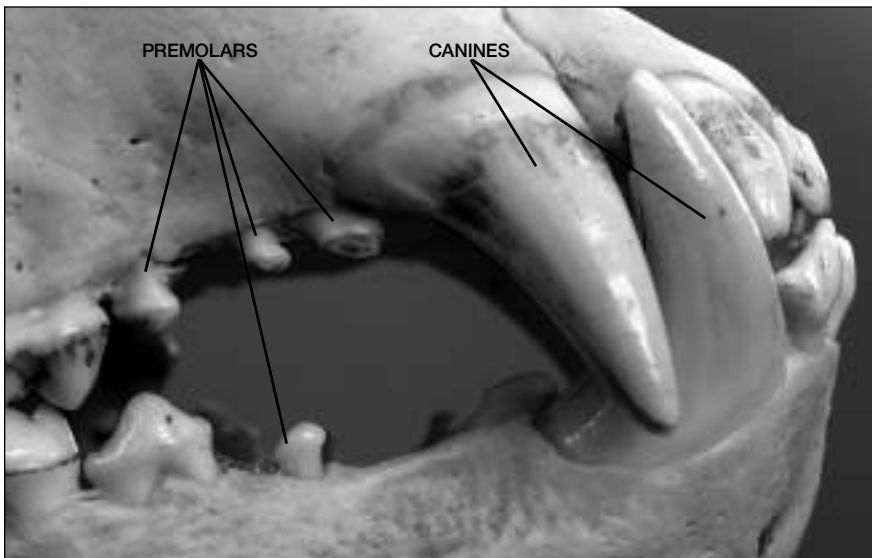
The DNR collects teeth from all bear and the reproductive tracts from female bear. The tooth, which is used to determine the age of the bear, and the reproductive tract tell us how well bear are doing in Michigan. Gathered over a period of years, the information also can be used to estimate the number of bear in the state and whether the population is increasing, decreasing or stable. The tooth and reproductive tract should be collected at the time you dress-out your bear and turned in at the time the bear is sealed and registered. It is very important that we receive a tooth with each reproductive tract. All hunters who help with this research will receive a Michigan Bear Management Cooperator patch.

Tooth Collection

Bear can be aged using a microscope to count the number of cementum layers in cross sections of premolar teeth from either the upper or lower jaw. The cementum layers look much like rings in a cross-section of a tree; each layer represents one year.

The premolars are small, single rooted, peg-like teeth located between the canines and the molars. A premolar can be removed by cutting with a knife in front of and behind the tooth and pulling gently with pliers. It is okay if some of the gum adheres to the tooth. The aging technique actually works better if the tooth is not scraped clean. The age cannot be determined from the tooth crown; therefore, it is very important that the premolar be removed with the root as intact as possible.

The tooth can be wrapped in paper (not plastic or foil) or placed in an envelope and can be dried or frozen. Turn in the tooth when you have your bear sealed and registered.



Female Reproductive Tract Collection

There are telltale signs left in the reproductive tract after a female bear has mated and given birth to cubs. The process of ovulation and birth leaves visible scars inside the ovaries and uterus. Counts of scars in the uterus tell us how many cubs were born. Counts of scars in the ovaries indicate the number of eggs that were shed. No scars in either the ovary or the uterus indicate the bear had not mated. Scars in the ovary, but not in the uterus, indicate she had mated but, for some reason, did not become pregnant. This information, combined with the age of each animal, tells us a great deal about what is going on in our bear population.

To remove the reproductive tract, please follow these instructions:

1. With the bear on its back, make a cut along the midline from the pelvis to the rib cage.
2. Pull the intestines forward and locate the urinary bladder.
3. Under the bladder will be the uterus and ovaries (Fig. 1).
4. Lift each ovary and cut away the connecting tissue (Fig. 2). Cut the uterus about 2 inches below where the two horns of the uterus meet (Fig. 3).
5. Place the uterus and attached ovaries in a plastic bag. Freeze if possible, but definitely keep it cold until it is turned in at a registration station.

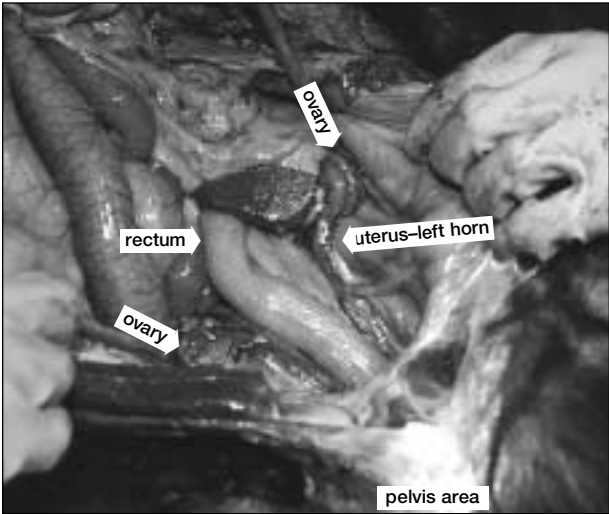


Figure 1

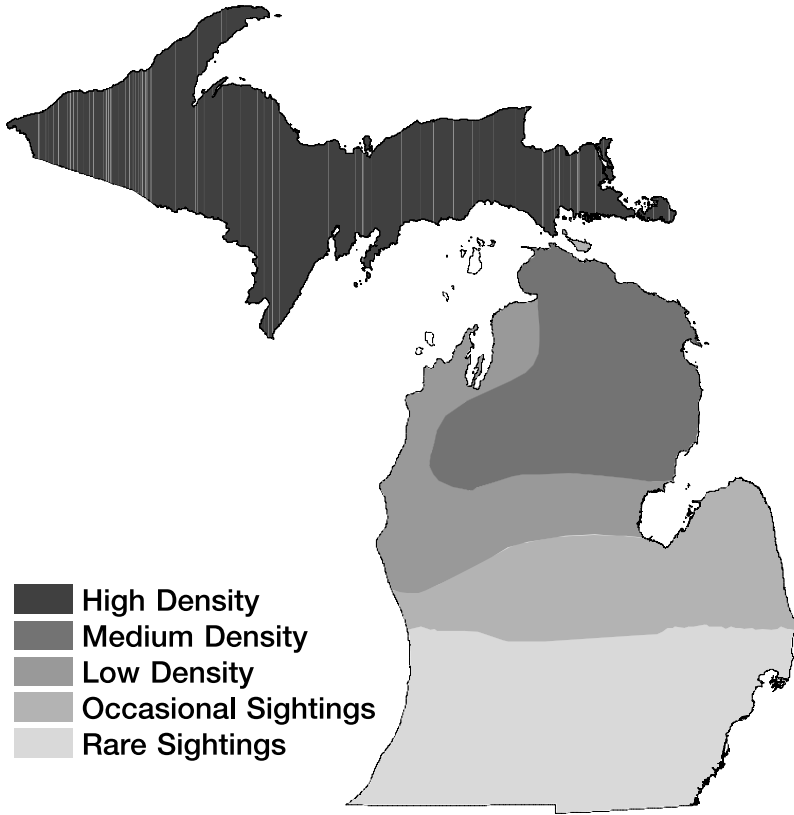


Figure 2

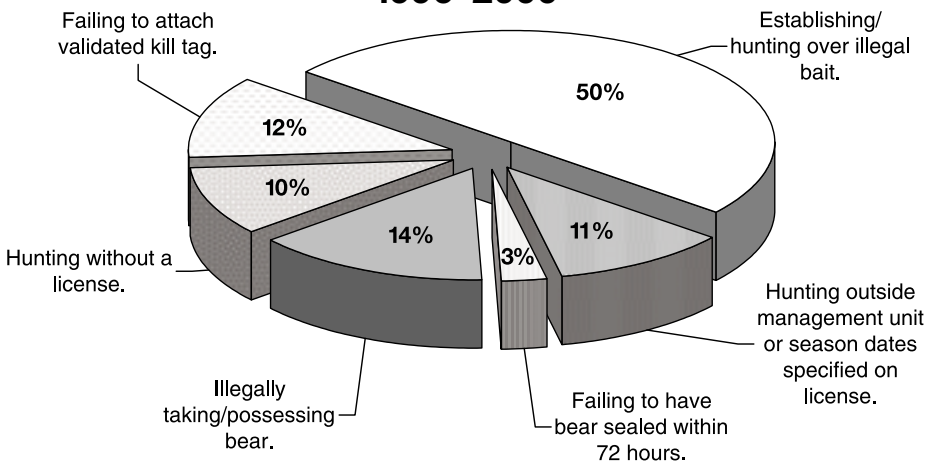


Figure 3

Bear Distribution in Michigan



Common Bear Hunting Violations* 1996–2000



*Excludes general hunting violations not specific to bear hunting such as hunter orange, firearms transport, and hunting hours violations.

Bear Harvest

Recent Black Bear Hunting Seasons

| | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Applicants ^a | 26,728 | 29,118 | 35,915 | 37,906 | 45,164 | 46,336 | 43,563 |
| Tags Available | 6,461 | 6,602 | 7,305 | 8,097 | 9,490 | 9,875 | 10,844 |
| Tags Issued | 6,461 | 6,602 | 7,305 | 8,097 | 9,490 | 9,875 | 10,844 |
| Hunters ^b | 5,610 | 5,693 | 5,935 | 6,519 | 7,365 | 7,739 | 8,575 |
| Harvest ^c | 1,300 | 1,285 | 1,512 | 1,707 | 1,890 | 2,104 | 2,221 |
| % Males | 64% | 55% | 61% | 63% | 56% | 58% | 55% |
| % Females | 36% | 45% | 39% | 37% | 44% | 40% | 45% |
| Hunter-days | 38,741 | 39,072 | 41,722 | 45,633 | 50,658 | 52,829 | 59,862 |
| Hunter Success | 23% | 23% | 25% | 26% | 26% | 27% | 26% |

^aNumber of applicants eligible for drawing.

^bTag holders actually hunting.

^cRegistered bear harvest.

Bear Harvest by BMU

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bergland | 234 | 285 | 256 | 284 | 343 |
| Baraga | 349 | 388 | 472 | 587 | 534 |
| Amasa | 100 | 129 | 131 | 171 | 180 |
| Carney | 149 | 142 | 161 | 209 | 214 |
| Gwinn | 160 | 189 | 201 | 228 | 222 |
| Newberry | 323 | 354 | 444 | 357 | 365 |
| Drummond | 7 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 11 |
| Red Oak | 179 | 196 | 201 | 228 | 313 |
| Baldwin | 9 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 29 |
| Gladwin | 2 | 6 | 6 | 20 | 10 |
| TOTAL | 1,512 | 1,707 | 1,890 | 2,110 | 2,221 |

Last Year's Drawing Results

| Mgt. Unit | Hunt Period | License Quota | No. of Applicants | Percent Applicants Receiving Licenses | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| | | | | By Hunt | Overall |
| Amasa | First | 154 | 1,121 | 13.7 | 23.5 |
| | Second | 171 | 610 | 28.0 | |
| | Third | 273 | 812 | 33.6 | |
| Baldwin Baraga | First | 64 | 1,678 | 3.8 | 36.8 |
| | First | 526 | 2,657 | 19.8 | |
| | Second | 631 | 1,291 | 48.9 | |
| Bergland | Third | 1,017 | 1,957 | 52.0 | 53.6 |
| | First | 345 | 1,435 | 24.0 | |
| | Second | 476 | 699 | 68.1 | |
| Carney | Third | 833 | 882 | 90.1 | 37.6 |
| | First | 263 | 1,388 | 18.9 | |
| | Second | 307 | 668 | 46.0 | |
| Drummond | Third | 488 | 757 | 64.5 | 3.8 |
| | First | 18 | 474 | 3.8 | |
| | First | 200 | 661 | 30.3 | 30.3 |
| Gladwin | First | 267 | 1,969 | 13.6 | |
| | Second | 286 | 830 | 34.5 | |
| Gwinn | Third | 615 | 1,272 | 48.3 | 21.7 |
| | First | 456 | 4,748 | 9.6 | |
| | Second | 678 | 2,663 | 25.5 | |
| Newberry | Third | 1,109 | 2,940 | 37.7 | 13.8 |
| | First | 1,667 | 12,051 | 13.8 | |
| | First | 10,844 | 43,563 | | 24.8 |
| Statewide | | | | | |
| Preference Point Applicants | | | 8,213 | | |
| Total Applicants | | | 51,776 | | |

Department of Natural Resources Directory

WILDLIFE

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www.michigan.gov/dnr

TTY — Hearing Impaired.....711 (Michigan Relay Center)

Violations (RAP)800-292-7800

The DNR Operations Service Centers listed below are open
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Baraga
427 US-41 North
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Gaylord
1732 W. M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Bay City
503 N. Euclid Ave., Suite 1
Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-9141

Marquette
1990 US-41 South
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Roscommon
1-75 & M-18 South
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Livonia
38980 Seven Mile Rd.
Livonia, MI 48152
734-953-0241

Newberry
5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Cadillac
8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9727

Plainwell
621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act places an excise tax on firearms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service apportions these funds to state wildlife agencies to be used for wildlife management, research, habitat acquisition, game area and shooting range development and hunter education. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration funds has reached almost \$150 million.

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For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. TTY: 711 (Michigan Relay Center). This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

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